सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद): (क) से (ग). सुपर बाजार ने सूचित किया है कि अभी तक उनके विरुद्ध राष्ट्रीय आयोग में उपभोक्ता शिकायत के प्रतितोष के लिए कोई मामला दायर किए जाने की बात उनकी जानकारी में नहीं आई है।

Committees to monitor prices of essential commodites

3460. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up Committees to monitor the prices of essential commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committees have made any suggestions/recommendations;

(d) if so, details of these suggestions/recommendations; and

(e) the action taken by Government to implement these suggestions/recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee for Monitoring the prices and availability and forecasting the shortages etc. of essential commodities was constituted in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on 18th January, 1994 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Civil Supplies, CA&PD). The Committee has held 15 meetings so far.

(c) to (e). The Committee reviews the prices of essential commodities, their availability and suggests measures for stabilising the prices from time to time. The Committee makes suggestions for curbing the price rise in essential commodities, measures for augmenting the supplies both through higher indigeneous production as well as through imports. The State Government have been requested to set up Price Monitoring Committees in the States/UTs and also to take stern action against the hoarders, black marketeers and those who indulge in unfair trade practices so as to keep the retail prices under check. As various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government are members of the Committee, the decisions taken in the meetings are implemented by the Government.

Working hours of Super Bazar

3461. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working hours of Super Bazar are from 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. for Branches on sale side and Administrative wing respectjvely;

(b) whether it is a fact that 85 per cent female staff working in the Administrative wing leave their offices daily between 5.00 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. and those working in the Branches/Stores leave daily between 5.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m;

(c) whether the remaining 15 per cent female staff leave their offices generally at 5.00 p.m.;

(d) whether no attendance checks have been made in the evening during January-June, 1994 to check the tendency to leaving offices as in (b) and (c) above amongst the female staff members; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Super Bazar

Bazar has reported that for branches and departmental stores, the working hours is generally from 10.00 AM to 7.00 PM. In addition one medical store outlet functions from 9.00 AM to 9.00 PM while 6 medical outlets attached to major hospitals and one at Connaught Circus function round the clock. Besides this 4 branches function from 9.30 AM to 6.30 PM and one branch from 9.00 AM to 6.00 PM. The administrative wing at the head quarters and corporate office function from 10.00 AM to 6.00 PM.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of (b) above, question does not arise.

(d) Super Bazar has reported that checking of attendance is a routine exercise and this is being carried out irrespective of the fact whether it is a male or female employee.

(e) In view of (d) above, question does not arise.

Inadequate stock of PDS articles in F.P.S.

3462. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Fair Price Shops in Delhi and several States do not have adequate supplies of wheat, rice and sugar for the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/propose to take to augment the supplies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) Central Government makes bulk allocations of commodities to States/UTs for the Public Distribution System (PDS). Sub-allocations within the State/UT, monthly allocations to individual Fair Price Shops etc. are matters within the administrative jurisdiction of the State Governments/UT Administrations. Central Government does not maintain details of Fair Price Shop level complaints. Central Government has not reduced the allocations of wheat, rice and sugar for the last two months. The requests from States/UTs for enhanced allocations are considered by the Central Government before making monthly allocations.

Protection for rural consumers against misleading packages

3463. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any protection for the rural consumers against the Large Companies selling consumer goods in misleading packages, due to changed rules;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review the changes immediately; and

(d) the steps proposed for incorporation of public opinion in the proposed changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) There has been no change in the substantive provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 designed to protect the interest of the consumer in the case of commodities sold in pre-packed form. Every package intended for retail sale is required to carry information as regards the name of the commodity, the name and address of the manufacturer/packer, the net quantity etc. There is also a provision for checking the net quantity with the